

G-I-B-143

St. John Rock  
Frostburg  
Private

late 19th century

St. John Rock is a natural recreational spot located on Big Savage Mountain, approximately 2 miles west of Frostburg. It is a resistant sandstone outcrop of the Pottsville geologic formation.

It has been a tourist/recreational attraction since the late 19th century because of the scenic vista overlooking Frostburg, Maryland.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-I-B-143

MAGI #1202715635

ML

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY 1202715607

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

St. John Rock

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off St. John Rock Rd., east side, approx. 1/2 mile S of Rt. 48 on crest of Big Savage

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

Mt

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☒ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Borden Mining Company (Henderson, N.C.)

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Paul Nickel (Resident Agent) 157 W. First St.

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21532

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

St. John Rock is a natural recreational spot located on Big Savage Mountain, approximately 2 miles west of Frostburg. It is a resistant sandstone outcrop of the Pottsville geologic formation.

It has been a tourist/recreational attraction since the late 19th century. Several names of visitors and the dates of their visits have been inscribed into the rock.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		<i>Recreation</i>		

SPECIFIC DATES late 19th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John Rock is significant as a natural recreational/tourist spot overlooking Frostburg, Maryland. Its popularity dates from the late 19th century when other such spots, such as nearby Dans Rock and Sampsons Rock were popular lookout points.

St. John Rock and Sampsons Rock, located north of St. John Rock on Big Savage Mountain, are owned by the Borden Mining Company. Incorporated in 1846, the company was a major coal producer in the Frostburg vicinity until the 1920s. They still maintain both recreation spots and lease other land holdings for surface coal mining.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview with Paul Nickel, Resident Agent, Borden Mining Company.

Al Feldstein Postcard Collection.

Lovell, Arthur. Borden Mining Company: A Brief History, Frostburg, MD 1938.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

September 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

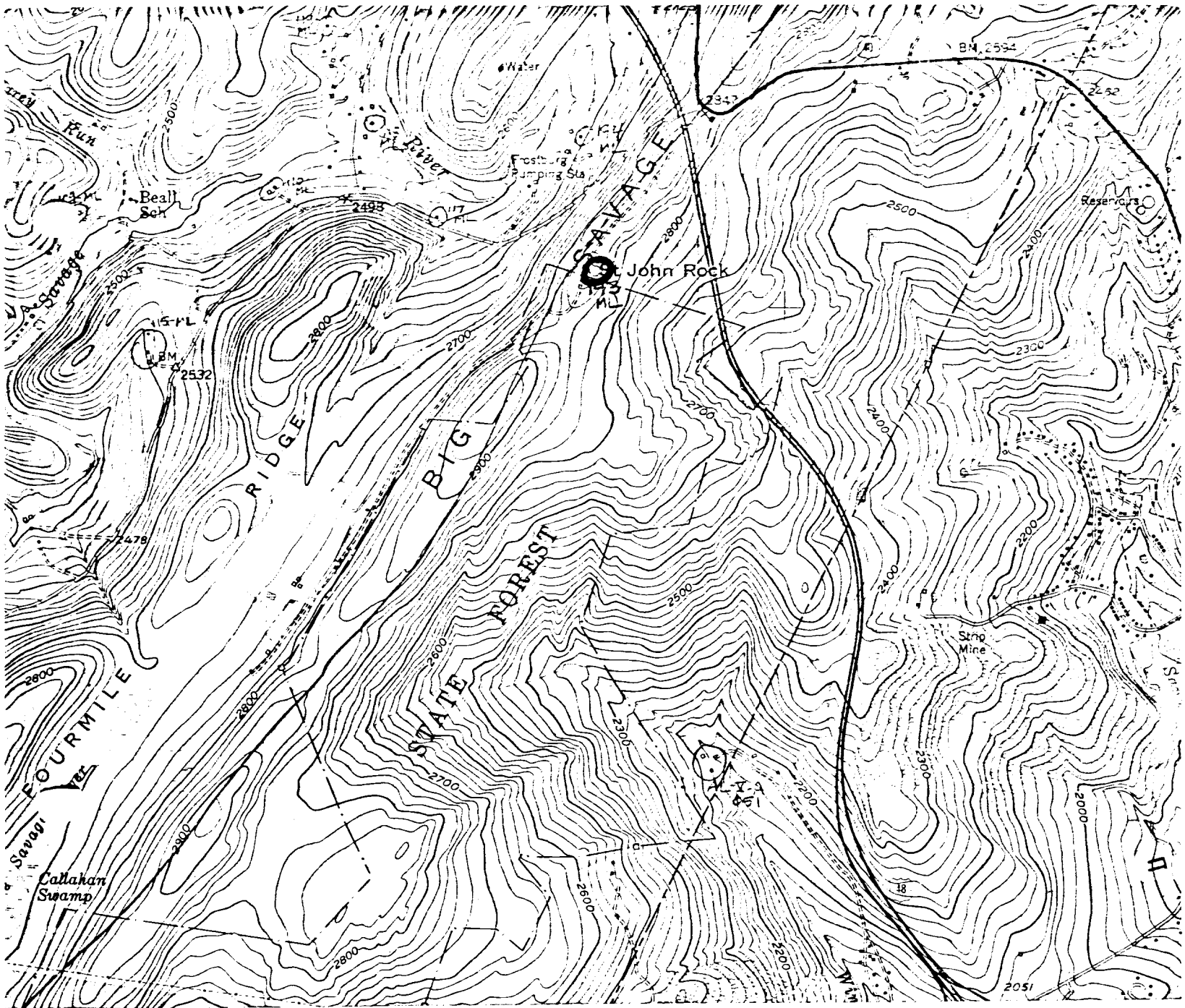
STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Frostburg, MD-PA  
USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
Scale 1:24,000  
1949; photorevised 1974

G-I-B-143  
St. John Rock  
Off St. John Rock Road  
east side, approx.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile  
south of Rt. 48 on crest  
of Big Savage Mountain



G-I-B-143

St. John Rock

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9/81

Looking N





G-I-B-143

St. John Rock

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9/81

Looking W Detail



No. 15

St. John Rock, Big Savage Mountain, near Frostburg, Md

Photo copyright, 1903.  
by L. A. Miller

G-I-B-143

St. John Rock

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9/81

Photocopy of c. 1900

Postcard A1 Feldstein Collection

ST. JOHN'S ROCK (ALTITUDE 2930 FEET)



ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY AT TOP OF BIG SAVAGE MOUNTAIN, WEST OF FROSTBURG, MD

103345

G-I-B-143

St. John Rock

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9/81

Photocopy c.1900 Postcard

Postcard Al. Feldstein  
Collection